THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The actual percentage will depend on the number of wagons finally decided to be procured by the Railways Board during 97-98.

(b) Projected requirement of wagons for 97-98 is now 26,000 Four Wheeler Units as included in Budget document. This includes procurement through Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS) (to be procured by users directly as well as through Railway Board) and BOLT scheme. No order has so far been placed through Wagon India Limited for 97-98 requirement.

(c) For 96-97 requirement, 15210 four wheeler units have been ordered through Wagon India Limited and out of this 9777.5 four wheeler units have been produced till Jan. '97.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Visakhapatnam-New Delhi

2216. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new superfast train between Visakhapatnam and New Delhi on public demand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce a bi-weekly Express between Visakhapatnam and Nizamuddin in 1997-98.

Loss of Railways Freight Revenue

2217. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are losing freight revenue heavily due to carelessness of Railway officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss on account of excess loading of coal that brings no revenue to the Railways; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) Adequate steps are already being taken by the Indian Railways to ensure that there is no overloading of coal in wagons by arranging weighment at the booking point/destination or at en-route station and in all cases where overloading is detected, penal freight charges, as per rules, are realised.

Vacancies in Railways

2218. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of technical as well as non-technical grades are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the number of posts filled up in different Zones during the last one year, zone-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that appointments have been stopped in the light of Fifth Pay Commission recommendation to freeze the vacant posts; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission are yet to be accepted by the Government and, hence the question of stopping the appointments in the light of Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation does not arise.